

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all currently pending claims without prejudice to their future prosecution.

Please add the following new claims.

74. (New) An assay device for detecting a plurality of target ligands in a sample, comprising:
a nonporous smooth surface or a nonporous textured surface comprising one or more depressions and/or protrusions extending between 1 nm and 0.5 mm from said surface; and
a plurality of discrete capture zones on said surface, each said capture zone comprising receptors immobilized thereon capable of binding one or more of said plurality of target ligands.
75. (New) An assay device according to claim 74, wherein each said discrete capture zone comprises receptors independently selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antibody fragments, nucleic acid molecules, and chelators.
76. (New) An assay device according to claim 74, wherein each said discrete capture zone binds a different target ligand from amongst said plurality of target ligands.
77. (New) An assay device according to claim 76, wherein said plurality of target ligands are a plurality of nucleic acid molecules, and each said discrete capture zone comprises a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to one of said plurality of nucleic acid molecules.
78. (New) An assay device according to claim 76, wherein each said discrete capture zone comprises an antibody, or a fragment thereof, capable of binding one of said plurality of target ligands.
79. (New) An assay device according to claim 74, wherein one or more of said discrete capture zones comprise one or more particles immobilized thereon, wherein said receptors are immobilized on said particles.
80. (New) An assay device according to claim 79, wherein said receptors are antibodies, or fragments thereof.

81. (New) An assay device according to claim 79, wherein said surface is a textured surface, and one or more of said particles are entrapped within depressions and/or between protrusions on the textured surface.

82. (New) An assay device according to claim 79, wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of latex particles, silica particles, zirconia particles, alumina particles, titania particles, ceria particles, metal sol particles, and polystyrene particles.

83. (New) An assay device according to any one of claims 74-82, wherein said nonporous surface forms a capillary space between said nonporous surface and a second surface spaced at a capillary forming distance from said nonporous surface.

84. (New) An assay device according to any one of claims 74-82, wherein said nonporous surface is not part of a capillary space.

85. (New) An assay device for detecting one or more target ligands in a sample, comprising:

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a nonporous surface comprising one or more particles immobilized thereon, wherein said particles comprise receptors immobilized thereon capable of binding said one or more target ligands.

86. (New) An assay device according to claim 85, wherein said receptors are antibodies, or fragments thereof.

87. (New) An assay device according to claim 85, wherein said surface is a textured surface comprising one or more depressions and/or protrusions extending between 1 nm and 0.5 mm from said surface.

88. (New) An assay device according to claim 87, wherein one or more of said particles are entrapped within depressions and/or between protrusions on the textured surface.

89. (New) An assay device according to claim 85, wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of latex particles, silica particles, zirconia particles, alumina particles, titania particles, ceria particles, metal sol particles, and polystyrene particles.

90. (New) An assay device according to any one of claims 85-89, wherein said nonporous surface forms a capillary space between said nonporous surface and a second surface spaced at a capillary forming distance from said nonporous surface.

91. (New) An assay device according to any one of claims 85-89, wherein said nonporous surface is not part of a capillary space.